

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 26-50 to the subject application:

Renumber  
Rule 26 27  
26. (New) A liftgate, comprising:

2 a unitary frame including an opposing pair of side plates  
3 and an extension plate extending there between,

C 4 added { each of the side plates having an upper edge  
5 adapted for attaching to an underside of a body;

6 a hydraulically driven lift frame pivotally attached to  
7 the side plates of the unitary frame and having a  
8 pivot member;

9 a platform rotatably attached to the pivot member of the  
10 lift frame; and

11 added { a motion limiting stop attached to the lift frame  
12 adjacent the pivot member and configured to limit a  
13 motion of the platform.

28 27  
27. (New) The liftgate of claim 26, wherein the upper edge of  
2 each side plate in the unitary frame is adapted for  
3 attaching to the underside of a vehicle body.

Does not limit cl. 26 29 27  
28. (New) The liftgate of claim 26, further comprising a  
2 plurality of bolts for bolting the upper edges of the  
3 side plates in the unitary frame to the underside of the  
4 body.

1 <sup>30</sup>/<sub>29</sub>. (New) The liftgate of claim <sup>27</sup>/<sub>26</sub>, wherein the side plates  
2 in the unitary frame further comprise formed steps.

1 <sup>31</sup>/<sub>30</sub>. (New) The liftgate of claim <sup>27</sup>/<sub>26</sub>, further comprising a  
2 hydraulic pump mounted on the unitary frame and coupled  
3 to the lift frame.

1 <sup>32</sup>/<sub>31</sub>. (New) The liftgate of claim <sup>27</sup>/<sub>26</sub>, further comprising impact  
2 bumpers attached to the unitary frame.

1 <sup>33</sup>/<sub>32</sub>. (New) The liftgate of claim <sup>27</sup>/<sub>26</sub>, further comprising  
2 brackets attached to the side plates in the unitary frame  
3 for mounting vehicle lights.

1 <sup>34</sup>/<sub>33</sub>. (New) The liftgate of claim <sup>27</sup>/<sub>26</sub>, wherein the lift frame  
2 further includes a lift frame tube configured to function  
3 as an underride guard.

1 <sup>35</sup>/<sub>34</sub>. (New) The liftgate of claim <sup>27</sup>/<sub>26</sub>, wherein the unitary frame  
2 further includes at least one upper stacking member and  
3 at least one lower stacking member, a profile of the  
4 lower stacking member being configured to nest with a  
5 profile of the upper stacking member.

36/  
1 35. (New) A vehicle body assembly including a vehicle body  
2 and a cantilever liftgate, the cantilever liftgate  
3 comprising:  
4 a unitary frame comprising an opposing pair of side  
5 plates and an extension plate extending there  
6 between, the side plates having upper edges  
7 attached to an underside of the vehicle body;  
8 an actuator driven lift frame pivotally attached to the  
9 side plates; and  
10 a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the lift frame.

Similar to Cl. 105  
D1  
Q 37/  
1 36. (New) The vehicle body assembly of claim 35, wherein the  
2 upper edges of the side plates are securely attached to  
3 the vehicle body by bolts.

38/  
1 37. (New) The vehicle body assembly of claim 36, wherein the  
2 lift frame is configured to be attached to the unitary  
3 frame prior to the upper edges of the side plates being  
4 attached to the vehicle body.

39/  
1 38. (New) The vehicle body assembly of claim 36, the  
2 cantilever liftgate further comprising a motion limiting  
3 stop attached to the lift frame and configured to limit a  
4 rotational motion of the liftgate platform.

40/  
1 39. (New) The vehicle body assembly of claim 35, wherein the  
2 extension plate is substantially coplanar with a floor of  
3 the vehicle body.

4/40.

pos, recs?

Similar  
to Cl. 15  
before  
invention  
"B"

Q

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(New) A cantilever liftgate for use with a vehicle having a bed, comprising:

(a) a unitary frame having an opposing pair of side plates, a trunnion tube and an extension plate extending between the side plates, wherein the side plates are secured to an underside structure of the vehicle bed;

(b) a lift frame having an opposing pair of parallelogram linkages, each having an upper and a lower arm and a proximal pivot and a distal pivot members, and a lift frame tube extending between the lower arms, wherein the proximal pivot members are secured to the trunnion tube;

(c) a liftgate platform rotatably attached to the distal pivot members;

(d) a stop configured mounted on each parallelogram linkage adjacent the distal pivot member to prevent a rotation of the liftgate platform away from the upper and lower arms past a first orientation substantially parallel with the vehicle bed and allowing a rotation of the liftgate platform toward the upper and lower arms to a second orientation substantially perpendicular to the vehicle bed; and

(e) an extendable actuator pivotally secured at one end to the trunnion tube and at another end to the lift frame tube, an extension of the actuator raising the liftgate platform in the first orientation to a raised position and inverting the liftgate platform in the second orientation into a stowed position.

1 <sup>42/</sup>41. (New) The cantilever liftgate of claim <sup>41/</sup>40, wherein the  
2 side plates are secured to at least one underside sub-  
3 structure cross member of the vehicle bed.

1 <sup>43/</sup>42. (New) The cantilever liftgate of claim <sup>41/</sup>40, wherein the  
2 extension plate is secured to at least one horizontal  
3 frame member of the vehicle bed.

D 1 <sup>44/</sup>43. (New) The cantilever liftgate of claim <sup>41/</sup>40, wherein the  
2 side plates and the extension plate are secured to the  
3 vehicle bed by bolts or welding.

Q 1 <sup>45/</sup>44. (New) The cantilever liftgate of claim <sup>41/</sup>40, wherein the  
2 extendable actuator includes a hydraulic cylinder.

1 <sup>46/</sup>45. (New) A method for providing a cantilever liftgate,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3 (a) providing a unitary frame comprising an opposing  
4 pair of side plates and an extension plate  
5 extending between the side plates;  
6 (b) pivotally attaching a lift frame to the side  
7 plates; and  
8 (c) rotatably attaching a liftgate platform to a pivot  
9 member of the lift frame so that the platform is  
10 supported at one end only; and  
11 (d) attaching a motion limit member to the pivot member  
12 of the lift frame.

very similar to claim 20 except step D

47/ 46. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising, after  
steps (a), (b), (c), and (d) have been completed, the  
step of securing the unitary frame to an underside of a  
vehicle body.

01 48/ 47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the step of  
securing the unitary frame to an underside of a vehicle  
body includes bolting or welding the unitary frame to a  
base of the truck bed.

Q 49/ 46. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising, after  
steps (a), (b), (c), and (d) have been completed, the  
step of stacking the cantilever liftgate on top of  
another cantilever liftgate.

50/ 49. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step  
of packaging and shipping the stacked cantilever  
liftgates together.

51/ 46. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the step of  
attaching a motion limit member to the pivot member of  
the lift frame includes confining a motion of the  
liftgate platform between a first orientation and a  
second orientation substantially perpendicular to each  
other.

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REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR  
§ 1.114 for the subject application was made on April 7, 2003.